

THE WALKING DEAD™

33

\$2.99
\$3.40 CAN



CLIFF
Cliff 4'06

KIRKMAN • ADLARD • RATHBURN

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

THE WALKING

DEAD™

ROBERT KIRKMAN

Creator, Writer

CHARLIE ADLARD

Penciler, Inker, Cover

CLIFF RATHBURN

Gray Tones, Cover Colors, Back Cover

RUS WOOTON

Letterer

Previously:

With the help of Rodriguez, a security officer in Woodbury, Rick, Glenn and Michonne were able to escape. They brought along Doctor Stevens and his assistant Alice, who were fed up with The Governor's questionable actions. Sadly, Doctor Stephens was attacked by a zombie during their escape. Michonne, at the edge of town, moments away from freedom, decided instead to go after The Governor--to get revenge.

For Image Comics



Erik Larsen

Publisher

Todd McFarlane

President

Marc Silvestri

CEO

Jim Valentino

Vice-President

Eric Stephenson

Executive Director

Mark Haven Britt

Director of Marketing

Thao Le

Accounts Manager

Traci Hui

Administrative Assistant

Joe Keatinge

Traffic Manager

Allen Hui

Production Manager

Jonathan Chan

Production Artist

Drew Gill

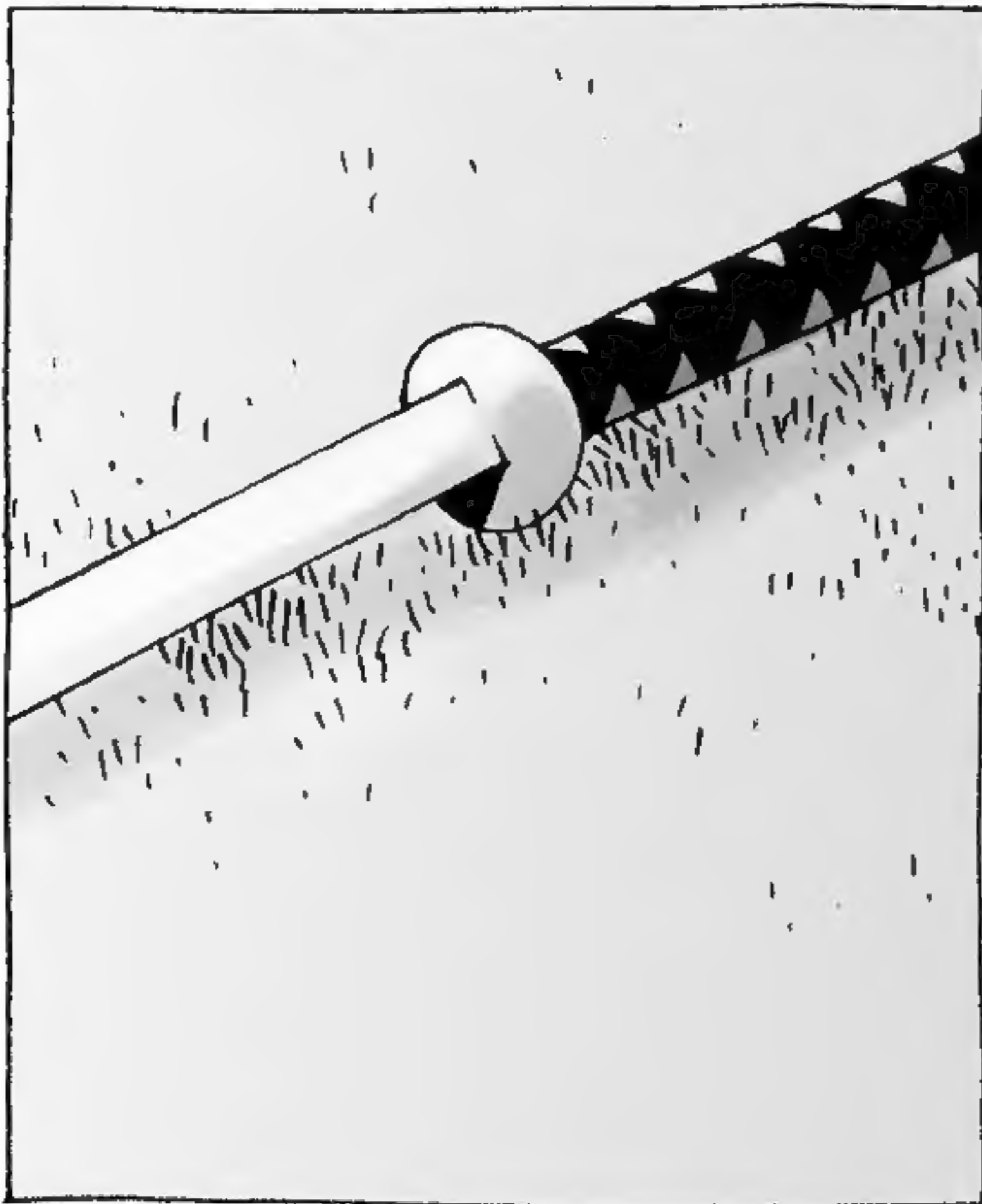
Production Artist

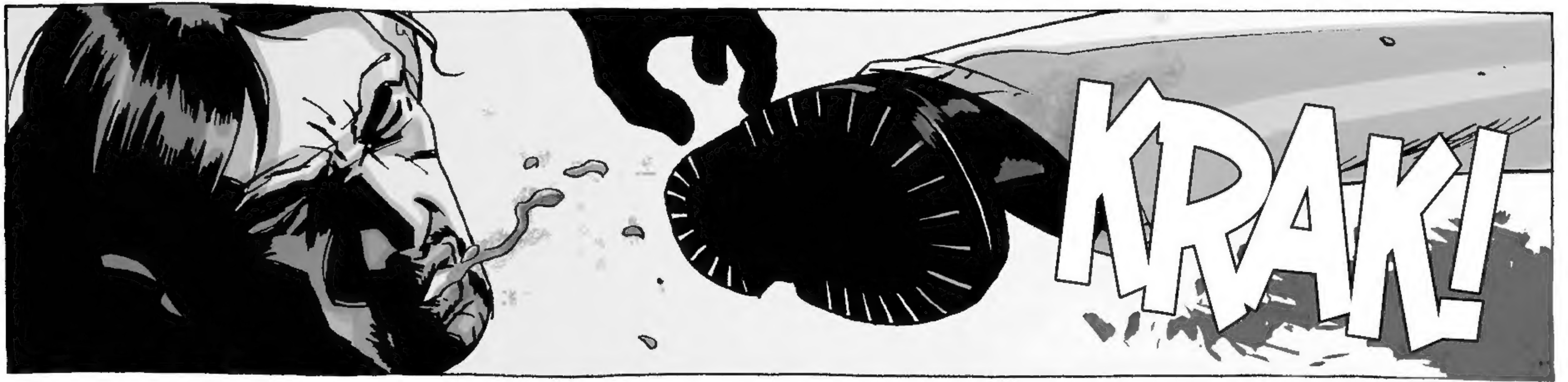
Chris Giarrusso

Production Artist

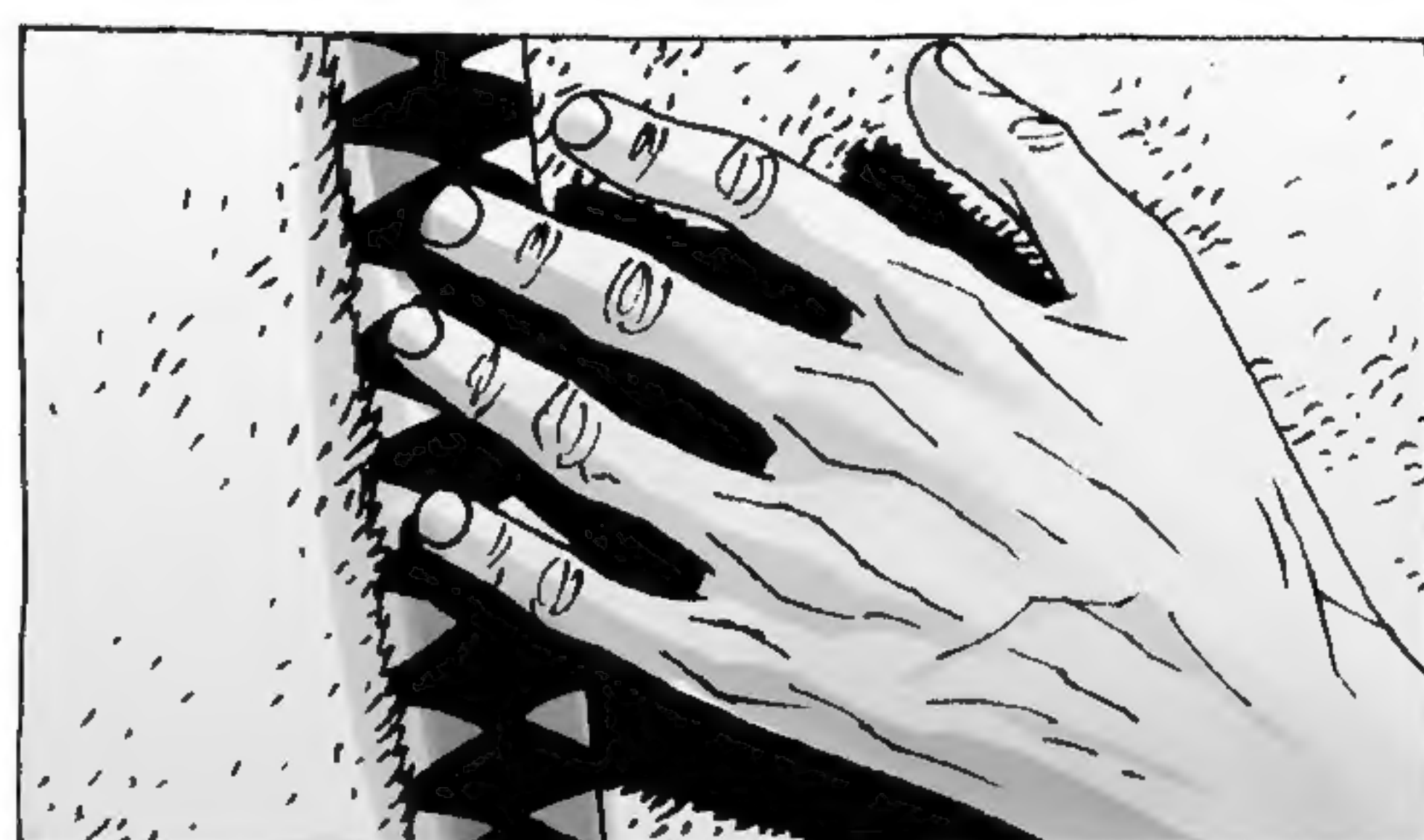
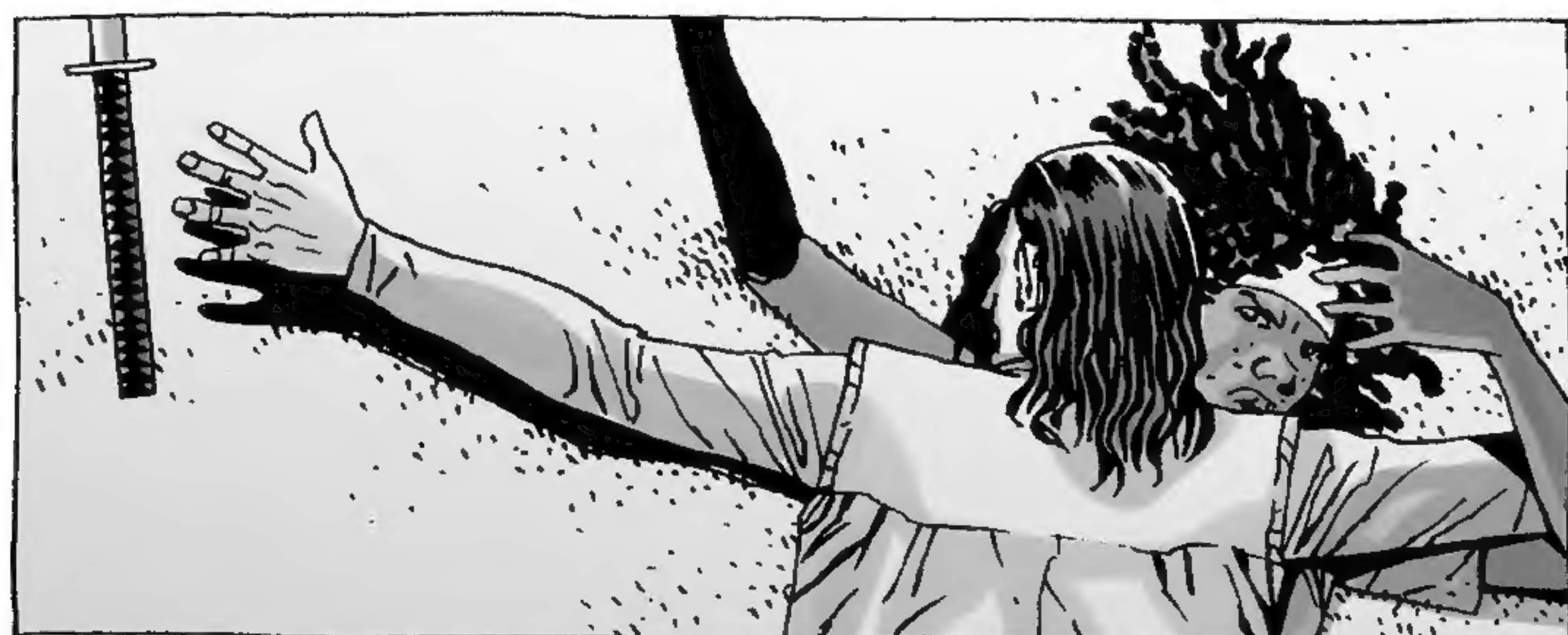
www.imagecomics.com

THE WALKING DEAD #33. December 2006. Published by Image Comics, Inc., Office of publication: 1942 University Avenue, Suite 305, Berkeley, California 94704. Copyright © 2006 Robert Kirkman. All rights reserved. THE WALKING DEAD™ (including all prominent characters featured herein), its logo and all character likenesses are trademarks of Robert Kirkman, unless otherwise noted. Image Comics® is a trademark of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted, in any form or by any means (except for short excerpts for review purposes) without the express written permission of Image Comics, Inc. All names, characters, events and locales in this publication are entirely fictional. Any resemblance to actual persons (living or dead), events or places, without satiric intent, is coincidental. PRINTED IN CANADA.

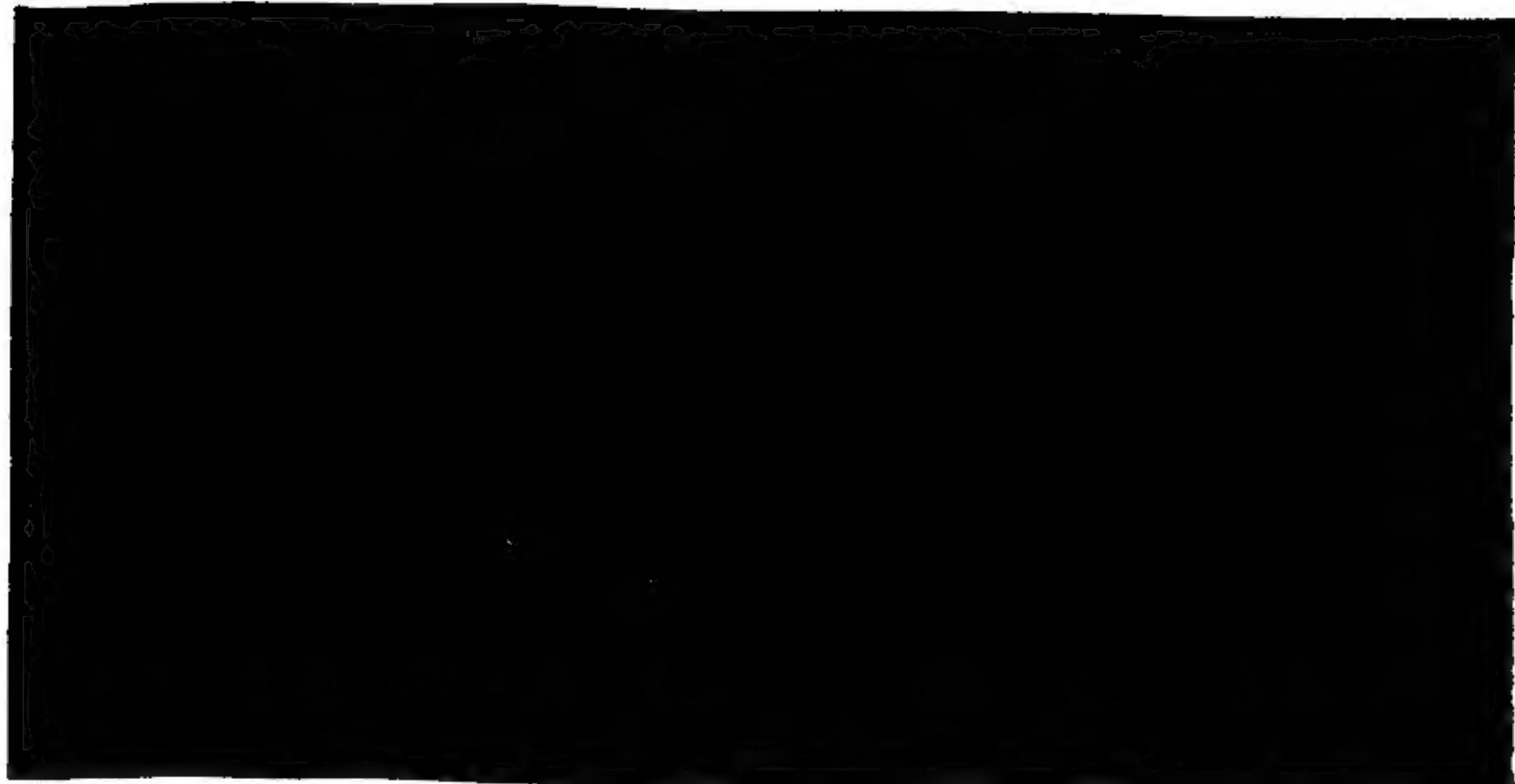












WAKE UP,
ASSHOLE.



FINALLY--I
THOUGHT YOU
WERE NEVER
GOING TO
WAKE UP.

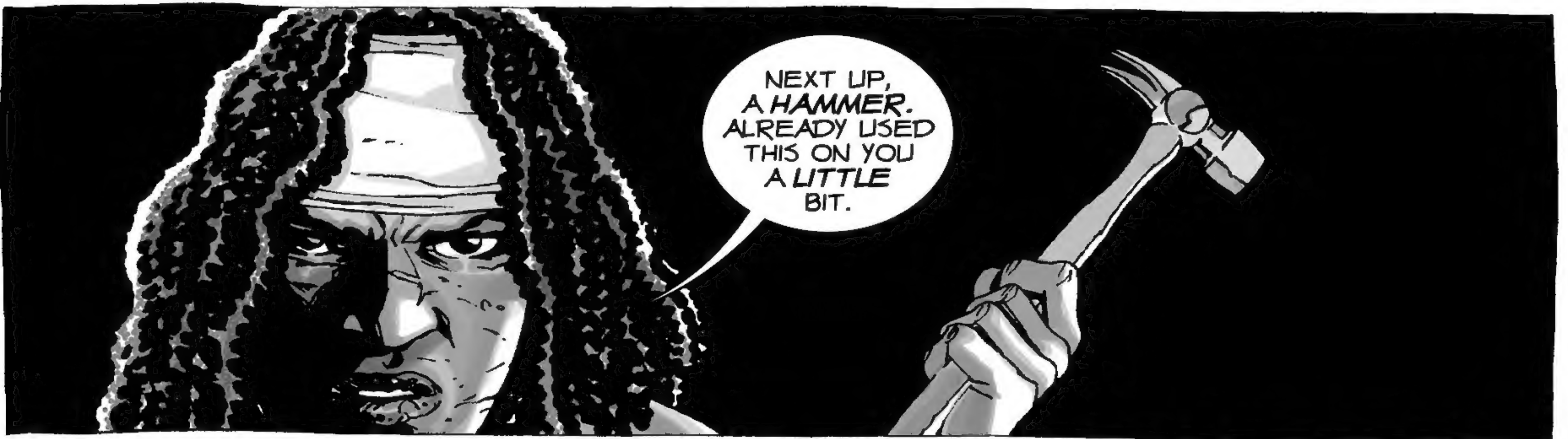
YOU PASSED
OUT A **SECOND** TIME
WHEN I NAILED YOUR
PRICK TO THE BOARD
YOU'RE ON. DO YOU
REMEMBER THAT?
I WOULDN'T DO
MUCH MOVING IF
I WERE YOU.

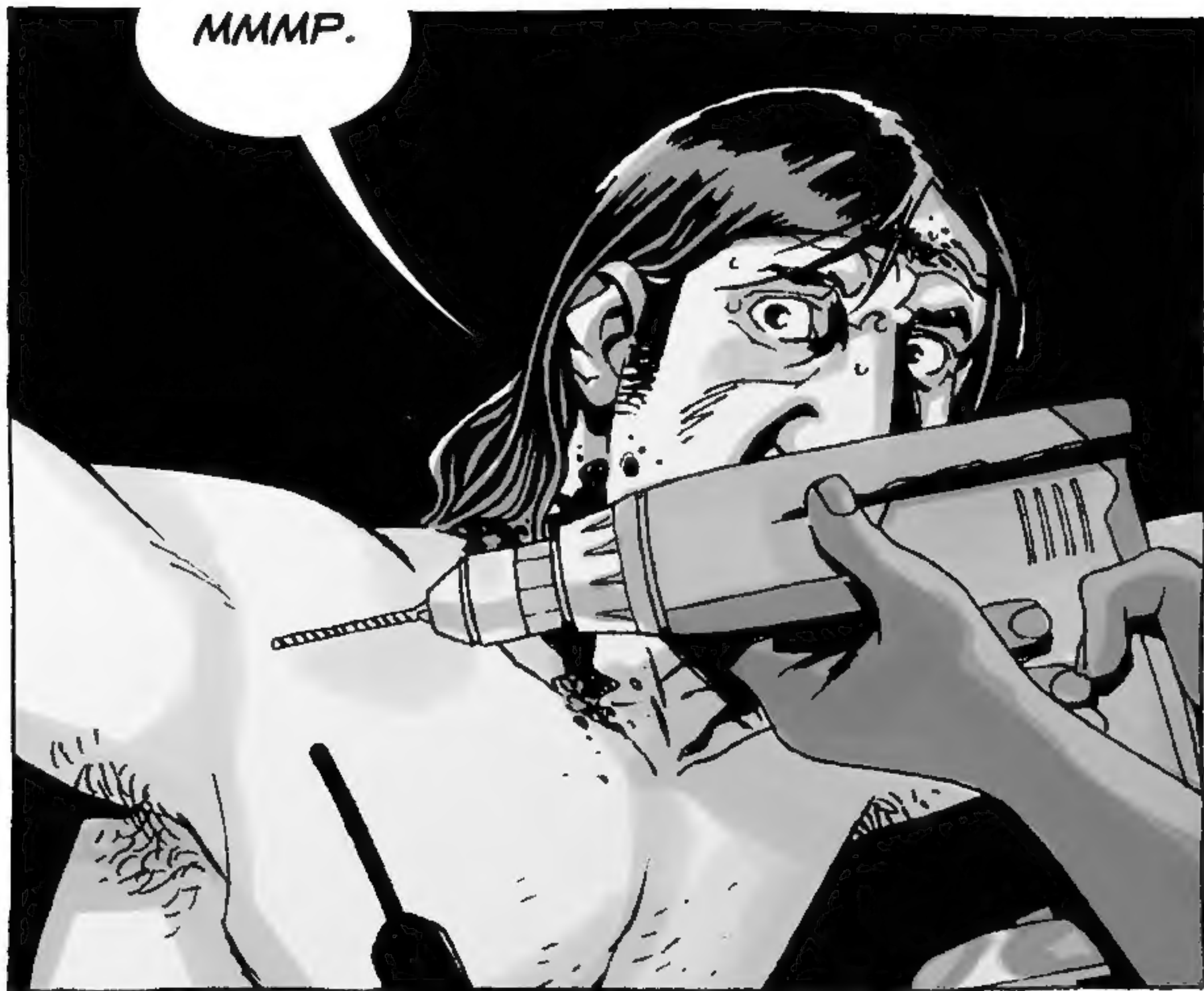
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE
LITTLE GIRL--I PUT HER IN
THE BACK ROOM--WHERE
YOU HAD ALL THIS JUNK.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING--
BUILDING A **CAGE** FOR
YOUR LITTLE--**SEX SLAVE**?
WHY DO YOU HAVE HER
HERE ANYWAY?

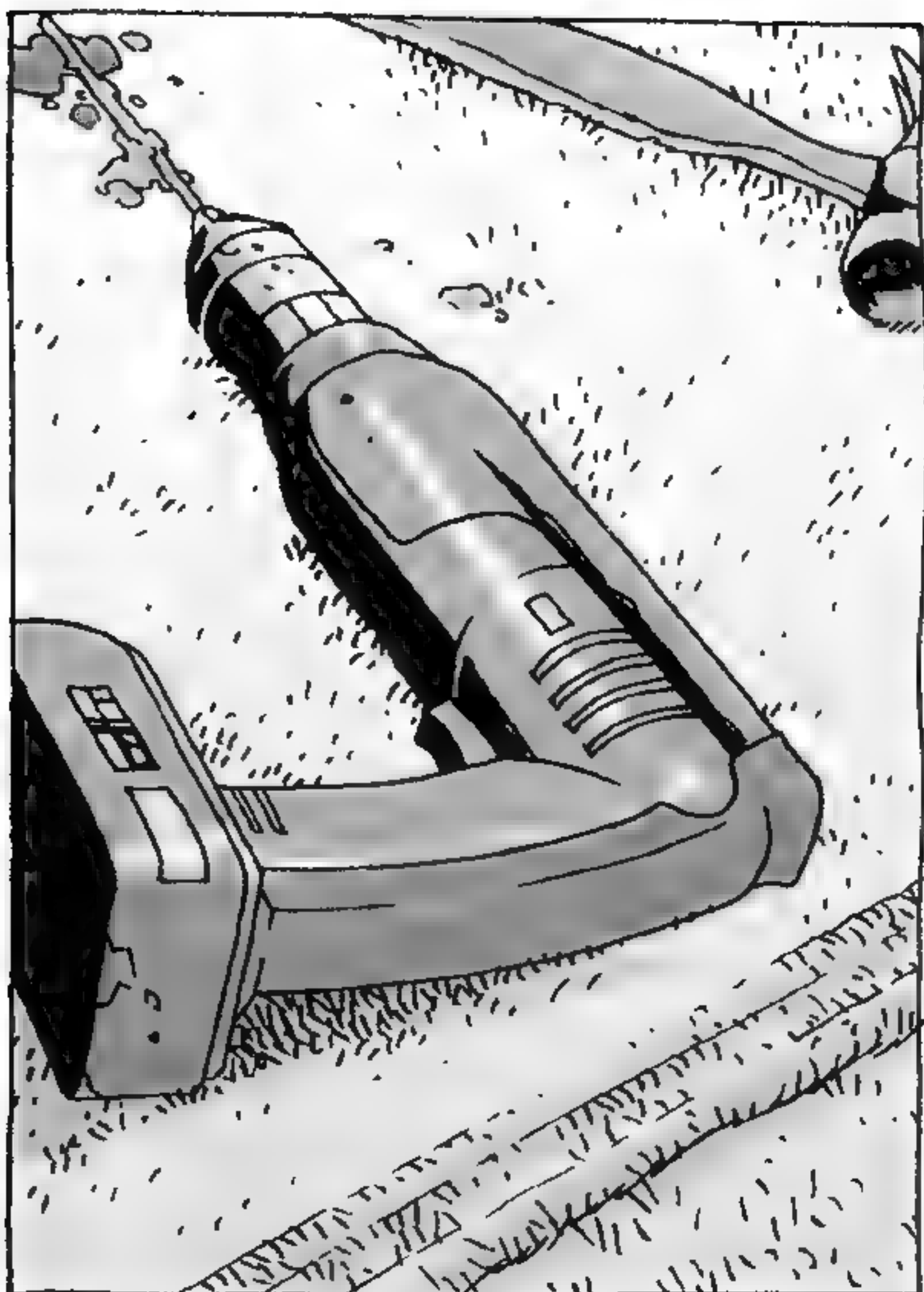
I DON'T
EVEN WANT
TO KNOW.

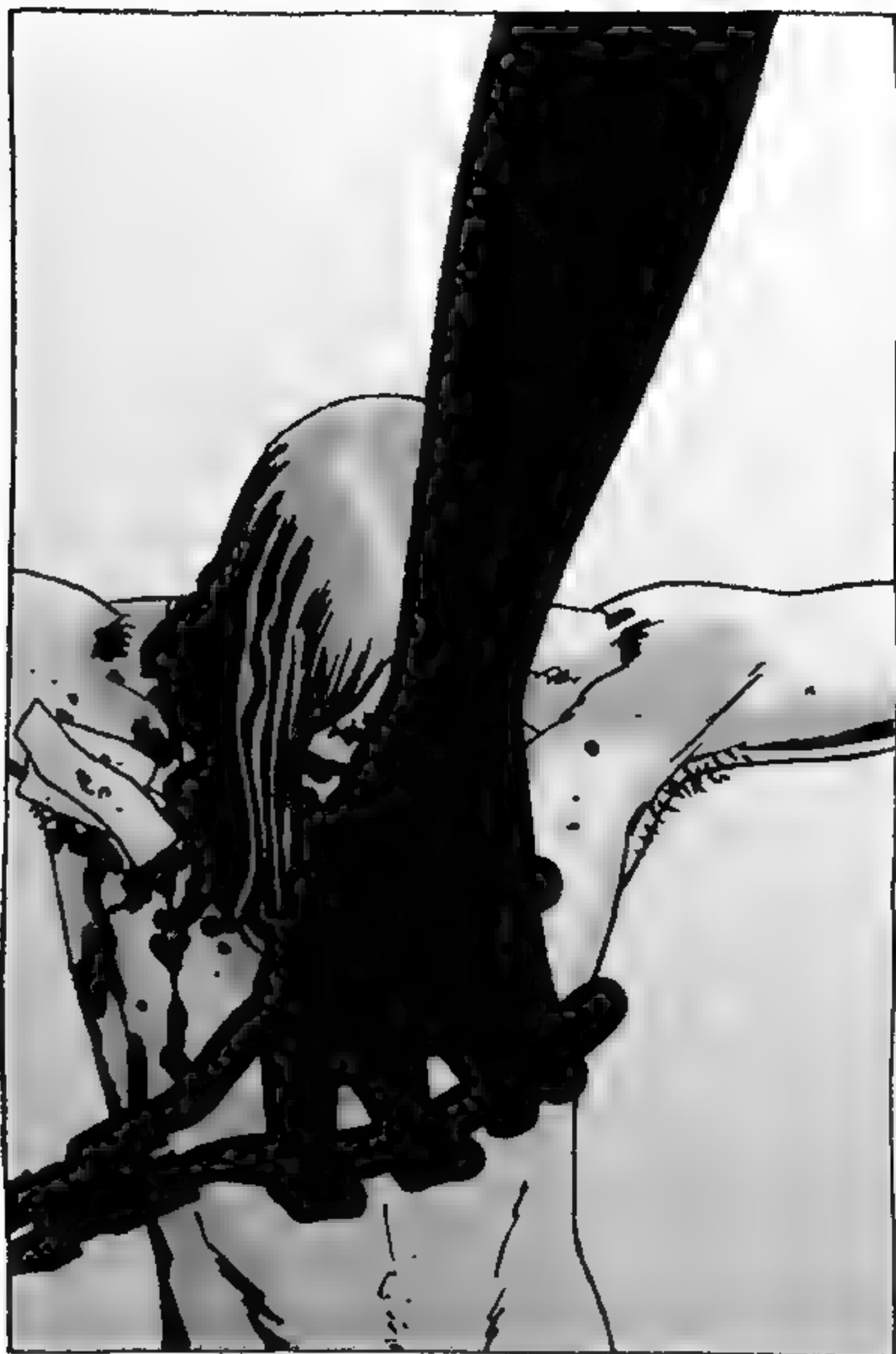
I'M
ANXIOUS
TO GET
STARTED.













THAT HAND
IS JUST
RUINED
NOW.



JUST
RUINED.



SHUKKI!!



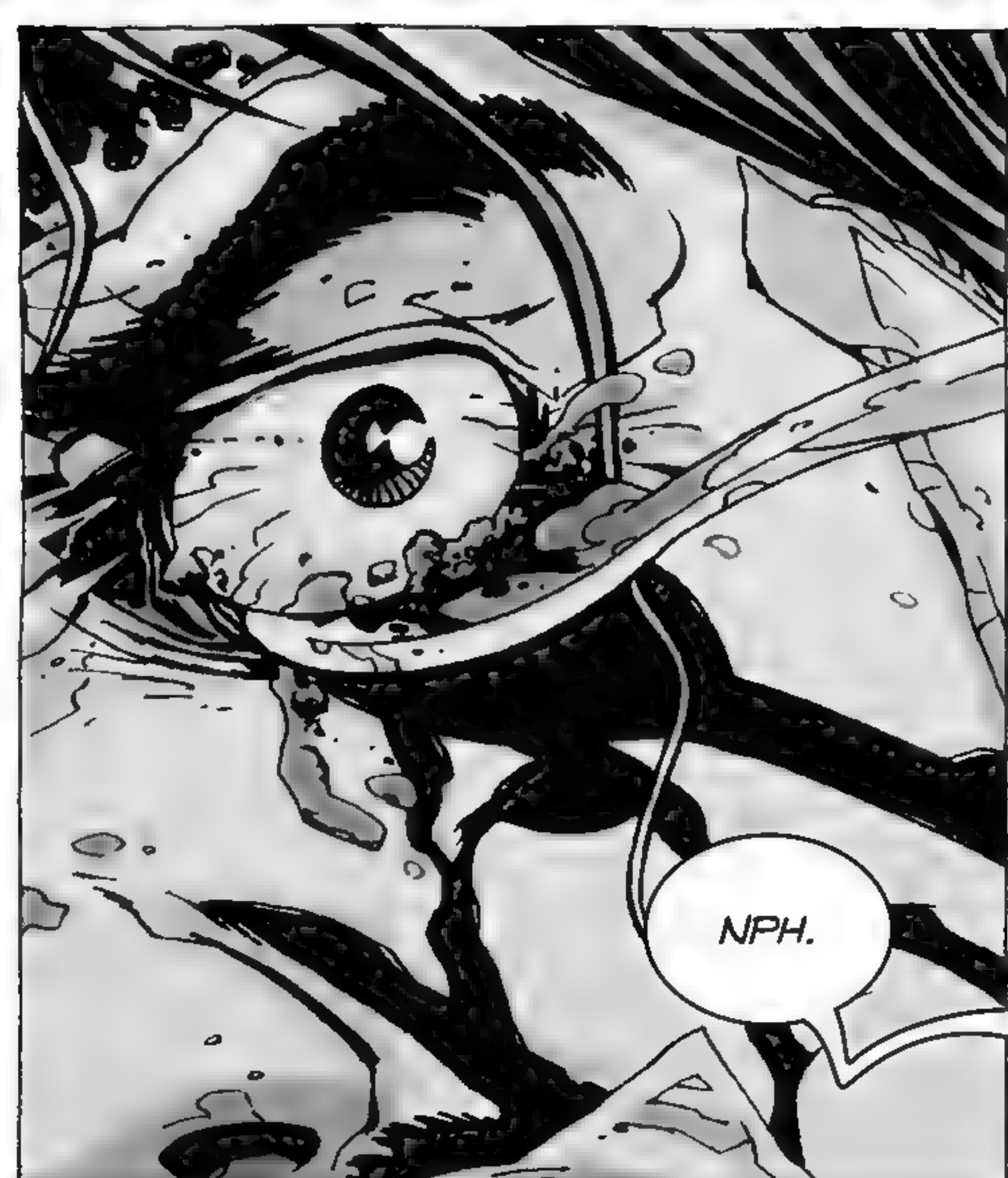
MMPPPHHH!!



DON'T WORRY--
I THINK I CAN
STOP THE
BLEEDING.

PSSSH!!









KNOCK! KNOCK!



**GOVERNOR!!
YOU IN
THERE?!**

**YO--PHIL!!
OPEN UP! THE
CRAZY BITCH IS
GONE, MAN!
THE DOCTOR AND
ALICE--AND THE
OTHER TWO
AS WELL!**

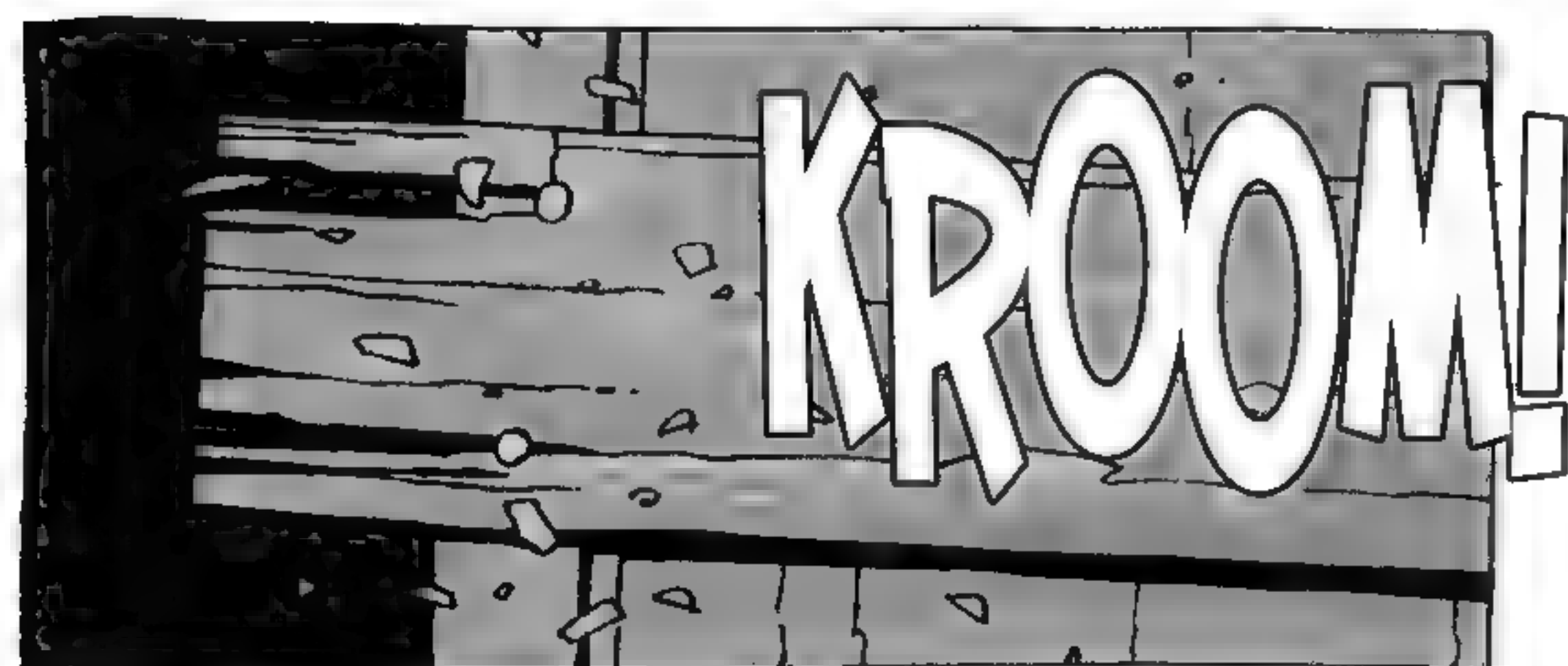
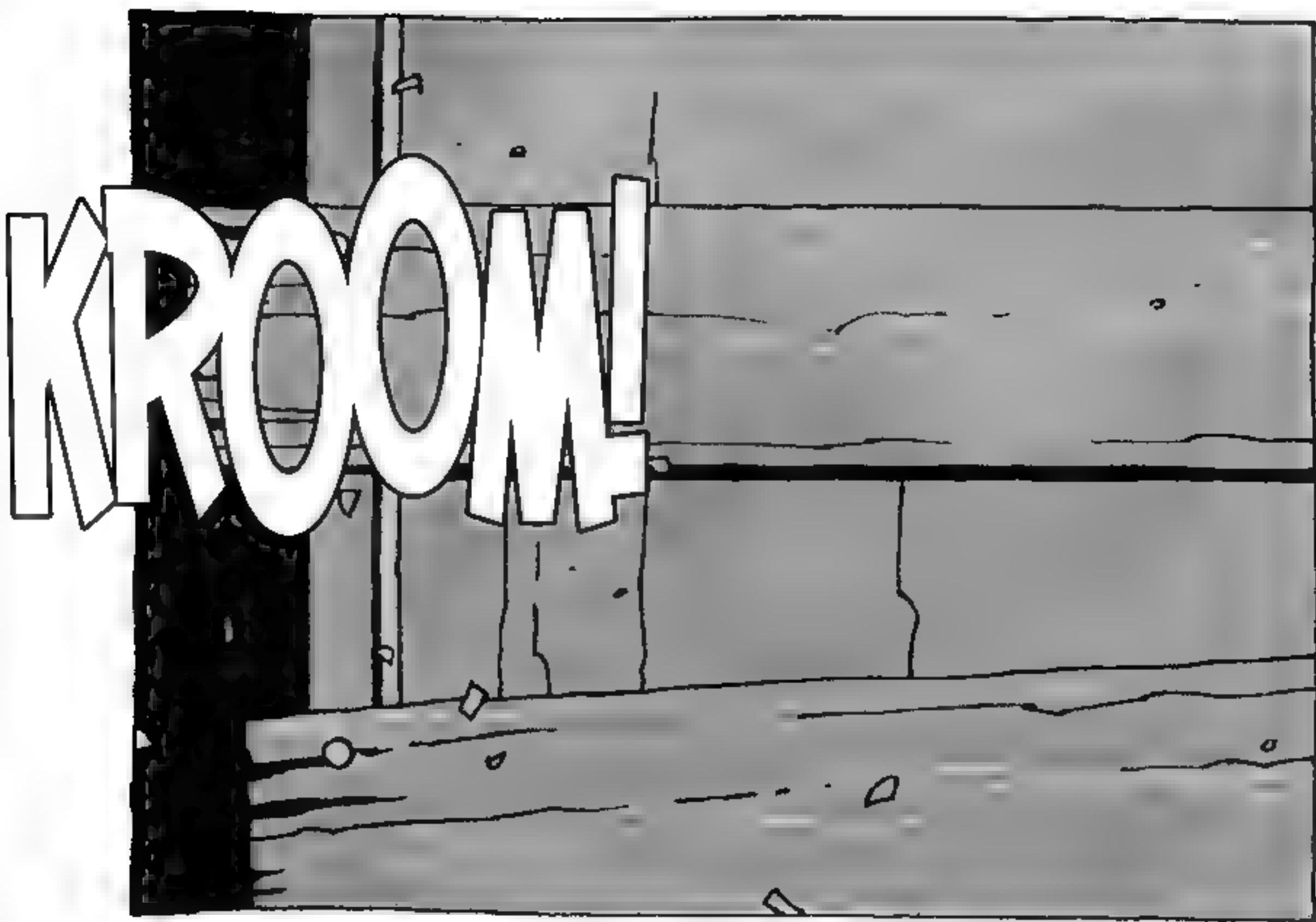
**WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOUR
DOOR?**



**SAY
SOMETHING,
SIR!**



**WE'RE
COMING
IN!**







FUCK
HER. SHE'S
OUTSIDE THE
SAFE ZONE
NOW--SHE
AIN'T GOT A
CHANCE.

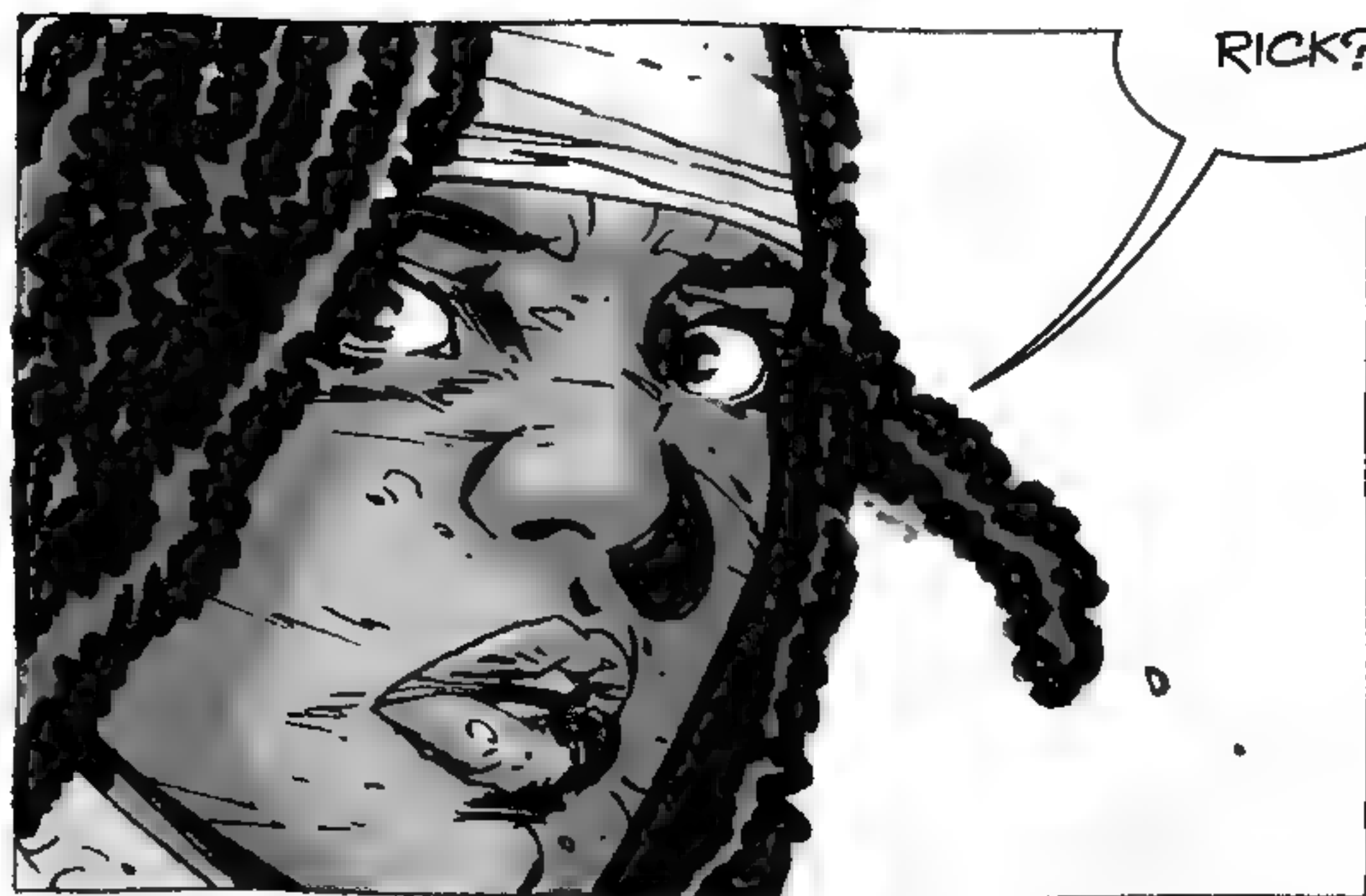
WHAT
ABOUT
HIM?



IS HE
DEAD?







WE DIDN'T THINK WE COULD
MAKE IT TO THE CAR LAST NIGHT--
OR THE PRISON--SO WE SLEPT
HERE FOR SHELTER--OR
TRIED TO AT
LEAST.



YOU--HOW
DID YOU GET
HERE SO FAST?
HAVE YOU BEEN
WALKING ALL
NIGHT?



I'VE BEEN
WALKING ALL
NIGHT, YEAH.
I KINDA HAD
TO LEAVE IN
A HURRY.


WHERE'S
THAT
DOCTOR?



HE--
HE DIDN'T
MAKE IT.

...
WHAT
ABOUT THE
GOVERNOR--
IS HE--?

DID
YOU KILL
HIM?

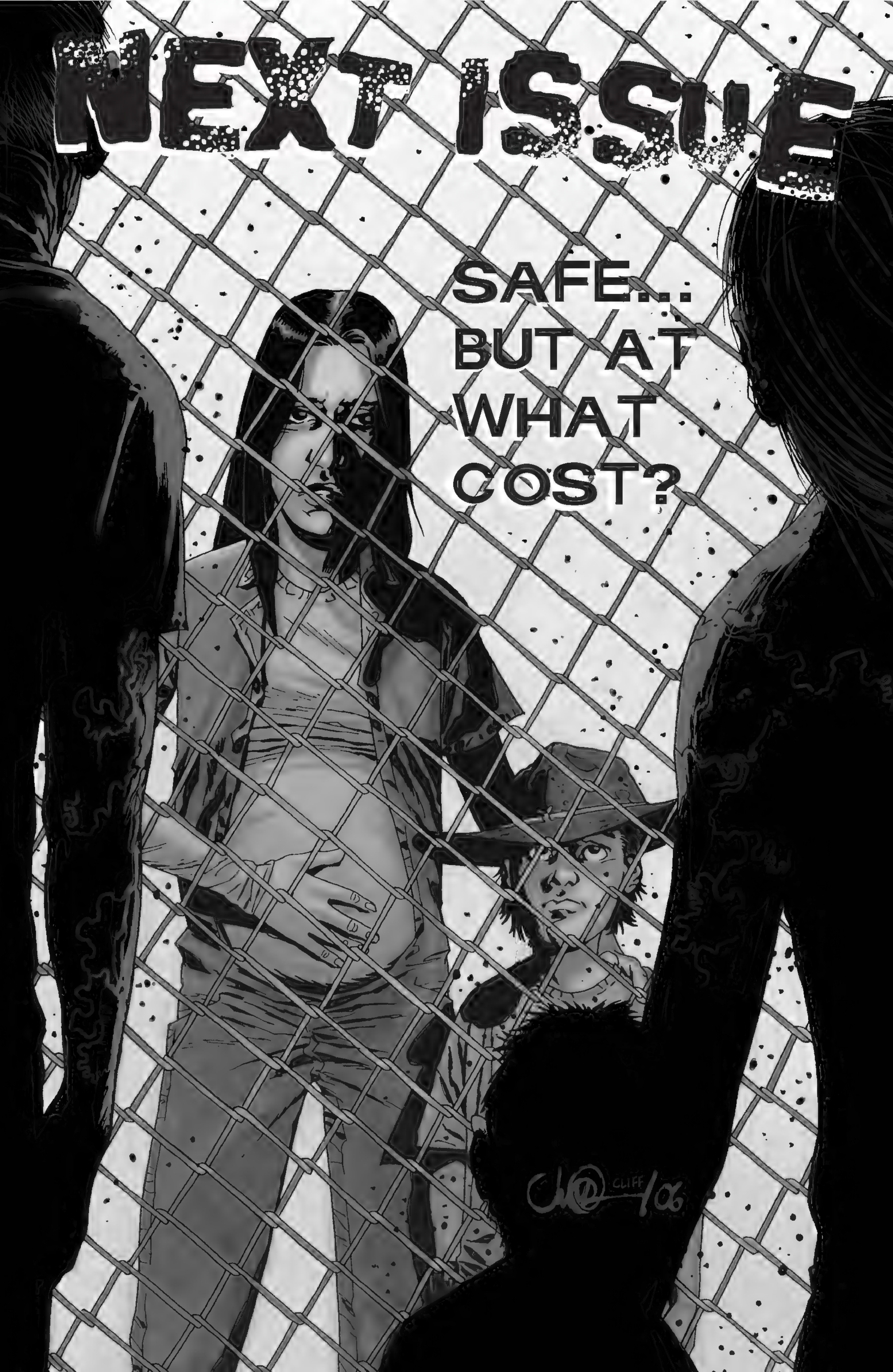


KILL?
KILL *WHO*?
I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU'RE
TALKING ABOUT,
RICK.

...
LET'S
JUST--
LET'S GO
HOME.

NEXT ISSUE

SAFE...
BUT AT
WHAT
COST?



CLIFF / 06

LETTER HACKS

WRITE TO US AT:

THE WALKING DEAD
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40555-4386

OR

WALKINGDEAD@FUNKOTRON.COM

Well, this issue was a bit intense, right? Sorry if you weren't expecting that. To be honest, I really wasn't expecting it either. It all seemed right to me as far as how the story was going. I mean, let's be honest--the Governor deserved it right?

Sure.

Let's answer a bit of mail, shall we?

Kirkman,
Just an idea. So many fans have asked how much time passes in between plot threads. And the baby is a great mechanism to show that. How about an issue with a ticking clock to show exactly how slow time passes?

Well, the thing about keeping it vague is that I don't have to be completely precise when it comes to the passage of time. It's just not in my best interest to lay it all out so readers can catch me make a mistake. I know roughly how much time is passing, and when, but making that public would just lead to confusion.

Walking Dead is by far the best character driven comic out there. Please follow up on the idea of how society would develop when it is isolated. Bigomy. Entertainment. Government. Religion hasn't been brought up much though. Thanx.

Todd C. Herbst

You'll see plenty about religion before long. I've got to get through my gratuitous violence stage first.

Dead Crew,

Lots of fucking cool stuff happens in this issue (#31):

1) Eugene stabs Harold in the neck, no hesitation. Sweet!
2) Michonne beheads Eugene right after she kicks his twig & berries back whence they came from. Adlard delivers a sweet panel of Eugene's head-loss.

a) Michonne reunited with her sword; she gets her motherfuckin' groove on, boy! Yes!

3) The Governor shows his true colors by having two guys take Michonne down. He's so afraid of her, she has to be chained up for him to be in the same room. The Governor is a pussy. I can't wait for Michonne to chop his head clean off. Or better yet, she chops his twig & berries off; that would constitute karmic justice.

She took care of the twig for sure--but I think the berries are still intact, for the most part.

A plea to the legion of TWD fans: Stop telling Robert what to do in upcoming stories. Obviously, he's created an incredible, dramatic world of stories without your input; he knows what he is doing.

I don't listen to anyone anyway, so it's really not a big deal.

Until Rick gets a chainsaw attached to his right hand, Make Mine, uh, (Kirk)man. Robert, you need to change your last name to begin with an 'M' to make the alliteration work. Get to it.

An irredeemable Walking Dead fan,
Sophea Uk

I'll get to work on that last name.

Yo, Zombie Dude!

Ok, just for the record I have TWD hard cover signed and numbered 18...SWEET!

Yes-I read it all the way through in one shot, yes-I loved the 3 page promo, yes-I wish a zombie would bite me so I could eat brains, yes-I have questions!

1.If they made a zombie James Bond movie would they make him only eat hot chicks?

I think that's in the by-laws.

2.Do you listen to white zombie when you write or go driving or ever? The first album was best! Lots of zombie movie sampling!

For whatever reason I never really listened to White Zombie. I had friends that did--and I always liked it--but I never bought a CD.

3.I totally agree that if this is ever going into film production that it should be a hardcore hbo/like tv series and it could be like you said, never ending...mmm brains!

This is not a question.

4.what kind of monkey brains are safe to eat? or like a delacacy in some countries?

Only the smart monkeys have brains that are safe to eat.

Sorry I got zombies on my brain...

Rob Steal

We all do. It's okay.

Hello Mr. Kirkman--

We in Canada love the Walking Dead and we especially love arena death matches. Issue thirty-one was sweet. # @*% another cliff hanger? Cripes it makes me feel like a junkie as soon as I finish reading an issue I'm already jonesn' for another fix.

That's the idea!

I tried Day of the dead, Omega man, 28 Days later, nothing fills/stops the cravings. The recolored Battle Pope helps, though.

That makes next to no sense... but if it gets you reading, all the better!

I work at a comic store and the trades are great to get the kids hooked they read one then come back for 2-4 the next like clock work then the weak willed ones usually succumb to the issues. Thanks for the awesome book!

From the frozen north
Riley Rossmo

Thanks for reading--and writing!

Dear Kirkman,

Kind of a down issue this time. I can't believe that the 'Guvnor' was so stupid as to trust Michonne! And where's the other guy? Where's Glenn? I know about the Irredeemable Ant-Man, but I think even you have the character all wrong! Ant-Man

should be more like Spider-Man, with the proportionate abilities of an ant! Right? Spiders are pretty damn small, but does Peter Parker shrink?! Course not. Ants are generally BLACK, too, not red. I'm still not sure who the new Ant-Man is gonna be though. Back to TWD. I think the best thing would be for the prison population and the Woodbury population to live in harmony! So, uh, have them build a tunnel or something, between Woodbury and the prison. This series always makes you feel some powerful emotions....

Sincerely,
Andrew J. Shaw

How boring would it be if the characters just went to Woodbury for Thanksgiving or something? That would be totally lame.

You need to talk to Stan Lee if you dislike the whole shrinking Ant-Man thing. Sorry.

Robert,

Just wanted to check in and let you know how good the current WD arc is. Can't wait to see where we're going on this ride. On a different note, I really enjoy the letter column, and I think its pretty cool that you print so many of them. I like hearing readers ideas, questions and suggestions as well as your responses. This is my second time writing to you (1st one was published, thank you very much) and I'm not sure if you have ever covered this or not. Have you considered another ongoing title set in the Walking Dead universe? I mean whole different set of people in another city altogether. I know you did that small follow up in the Image Christmas 05 special, I just thought that there might be some room in the backdrop you created for additional groups of people dealing with Zombies in other locations. Just a thought. Talk you soon. Keep up the good work. Tell Charlie to keep it up too.

Clyde in NJ

A second series with new characters isn't the worst idea in the world. There was a time early on where I had actually considered the idea. In the end I decided against it because I think expanding the book into a line of books would eventually weaken the popularity of this series and hurt sales and possibly sabotage this book. I want to write this book for a good long time. I'm not after the quick cash, I just want to tell my stories.

So yeah, only one book for the time being.

I have written in before and you published me, so fingers crossed I make the cut again... I wanted to email you to tell you about some zombie paraphernalia that I'm sure you already know about.

1. Dead Rising on XBOX 360 is amazing

I'll probably check that out one day.

2. Max Brooks came out with his next zombie book, World War Z - An Oral History of the Zombie War. Haven't read it yet but the Zombie Survival Guide is a piece of literature that will save a man's life.

It's on my to read list.

Well, that's it. Honestly, who makes a list with only two items. By the way I love how you are putting illustrations of zombies on the back covers of your comics now. I would totally do the chick on the back of Issue 31. She might be a biter though...

Eric Baca
Zombie Conservationist Extraordinaire

Did you just admit that you would have sex with a dead woman? I bet you're not glad I printed this letter NOW!

Robert,

Just read 31. Michonne rocks, don't kill her off for a while. I'm looking forward to learning more about her back story. Her conduct in the fight...getting to see her make the Governor's life hell before she gets her final revenge is nice. Can't wait for her to get that bastard.

Hopefully you liked this issue.

The Walking Dead is like crack. Everyone I recommend it to gets hooked on it. Letter Hacks is one of the best letter columns in comics right now, tied with The Goon and BPRD as my favorite. Invincible kicks ass, too, and as a catholic school dropout and former altar boy I can't help but love Battle Pope.

As an Ant-man fan, I was wondering if the new series is going to be an ongoing or a mini? Looking forward to it either way.

Oh, it's an ongoing series. Hopefully it'll go for a good long time.

A few zombie movie recommendations (since you asked and all):

Cemetery Man aka Dellamorte Dellamore (excellent surreal black comedy featuring Anna Falchi's boobs)
Versus (karate/yakuza/samurai/zombie flick from Japan)
Wild Zero (Japanese punk rock zombiefest starring the band Guitar Wolf)
Dead Alive aka Braindead (Peter Jackson's best movie and the goriest movie of all time)
Return of the Living Dead ("Send more Paramedics"...'nuff said)
Dawn of the Dead '79 (not obscure, but my favorite)

Thanks for hours of awesome zombie goodness and keep up the good work.

Brad Parker

All good recommendations, thanks.

It appears the stars have aligned and I must write, for in the last issue you asked for favourite obscure zombie movies and boy have I got an obscure one for ya! Plus you seemed to dig the chick letters so here's another for you. First the gratuitous "OMG I love you man". I do. You are a sick and deviant mind and your work, and the work of the rest of the Walking Dead team of course, is incredible. The black and white style is amazing and the perfect choice for such a graphic story. Letting the imagination fill in the colour delivers far more gore then you would ever really put to paper (or may be that's just me...). I love the fact that the storyline is really exploring how the most dangerous thing we can possibly face in any time of crisis is each other.

Guess I'll throw a Zombie question out there before I wrap this up (everybody's doin' it). I'll skip the "give me upcoming plot details" part of the question. I hope that's OK, but I kinda thought I'd let you tell the story. Here goes; Most plagues have symptoms other then your main one and also a certain percentage of people who seem to be immune. Why do you think we don't tend to see this in zombie plague stories?

Bad writing? On my part at least.

Here comes the obscurity, are you ready for it? My favourite obscure zombie flick is INTERCESSOR: ANOTHER ROCK AND ROLL NIGHTMARE. Why you might ask (and believe me if you had seen it you would ask)? Because I'm in it. I'm the Cop Zombie! I got to eat latex intestines and even had a couple of lines. It was a lot of fun to be part of something so very "B" and to be a creature that I love so much.

That's all she wrote,
Lisa Hudson

Man, I had to read this whole damn letter so you could promote some movie you're in. Jerk. Oh, well, any letter from a female reader is always worth printing.

Mr. K.,

That Whore!!!

That disease-ridden infection-spreading Whore!!!

I SEE that Mr. A.'s doing a little moon-lighting for a company that he once drew a series about dead space-guys in deep-doo. Are YOU not paying Mr. A. enough to keep him happy, Mr. K.?

Adlard get's far more fish heads for working on this book than he does for that other company. And I hit him with a stick WAY less when he starts to misbehave.

Before you know it, Mr. A. will be going over to the other big industries, like Dark Horse, Marvel, or even D.C. (Dead Company - hey I made a funny!) !!!

Adlard has been in this biz for almost 47 years and has done work at all these companies. He knows where the love is. Don't worry.

Look at the preview art of Rock Bottom! It looks like Mr. A. drew it while he was on crack, or lsd!

Is that a good thing?

If I didn't know it any better, it's some of his best art since THE X-FILES!!!! If this is true, then Mr. A.'s holding back on WD! You are NOT paying him enough, Mr. K.!!!

Eh, what can you do.

WD-31. Another dead-on terror-ific suspense-filled issue. Michone (everyone's favorite schizophrenic or multiple-disordered person) on the amok! Poor Guv'nor, he's so dead, he doesn't even know it yet. You almost feel sorry for the poor bastard.

Almost.

Poor Rick. No right hand. How is he’s gonna do you-know-what at night? Ask his wife?

Sorry.

I haven’t seen this mentioned in the letter pages of late, so I don’t know if you or anyone knows it or not. The movie that inspired you to make WD, “28 Days Later” has spawned a sequel - “28 Weeks Later” due out in 2007.

28 Days Later is not the movie that inspired me to make The Walking Dead. I’d been working on the book for a few months when I heard about that movie. That damn opening scene in the first issue was pure coincidence.

Wouldn’t it be cool to see two more sequels? “28 Months Later” and “28 Years Later” ? Might this inspire more WD spinoffs? Say geographically instead of timely? WD: Europe; WD: South America; WD: Africa or Asia or Australia? Might have to get different artists for each spinoff. Mr. A.’s too busy whoring himself. ;-)

Right, I need the sequel to a movie to inspire me to do spin-offs of my book. I never would have thought of that if someone hadn’t decided to do a sequel to 28 Days Later.

Sigh.

17 more issues until Oversize Omnibus Vol. 2. Work faster. Will WD X-mas special be reprinted in Vol. 2?

Yes, it will be.

44 more issues until final issue of WD # 75. I know you want to do 300 - 500 issues of WD, but does Mr. A.? Do 75 issues first then decide whether to continue or not. Nobody lives forever `less they’re dead.

What?

Got to go now. My dead dog’s eyeing me funny. Guess the slaughtered cow wasn’t fresh enough.

Thanks for another great issue of WD.

HAND, SOT, and TTYL,
Tom Fitzpatrick

You’re welcome.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Doing a fantastic job as always on the book. As far as other zombie movies go, here goes...
1-THE DEAD NEXT DOOR-Pretty ambitious for being shot on super 8.
2-ZOMBIE HOLOCAUST-How can you go wrong with Zombies AND Cannibals. Some of the lamest dialogue ever but gory.
3-NIGHTMARE CITY-Unintelligent zombies who can use automatic weapons,fun!
4-BLIND DEAD films-Great stuff. Zombie knights templar.
5-EROTIC NIGHTS OF THE LIVING DEAD-Don’t even ask...D’Amato trying to merge horror with hardcore pornography
6-DELLAMORTE DELLAMORE-Fantastic! Soavi does a great job here of adapting the Dylan Dog italian comic book.
7-BURIAL GROUND-Horrible,but gory. Plus where else will you see an actor playing a mother’s kid son older than the actress playing the mother!
8-HELL OF THE LIVING DEAD-A bad rip off of Dawn,right down to the music.
9-All the Fulci Zombie movies,GATES OF HELL,THE BEYOND,HOUSE BY THE CEMETARY,ZOMBIE,and ZOMBIE 3. I’m sure there are others,but that’s all I can think of right now...

Jeff Baughman

Thanks for the list, Jeff!

Hey Robert,

Just dropping another line, letting you know how much I’m digging the new direction the story’s going in. It’s a nice departure from the Romero-esque prison scene. Not that the prison’s a bad setting (far from it), but the fortress mentality of these characters, while not unrealistic, reminds me too much of the sub-plots for a half dozen other zombie stories out there. To tell you the truth, it’s the little touches in this town that I’m really enjoying. The scene with the screaming mother was particularly telling: bitch and scream all you want, but the men with the guns are the ones in control. Depending on your political bent, you could draw all kinds of metaphors from that page alone.

I’m sure I’ll get angry letters from people doing just that.

Anyway, enough film school bull. A few comments, a few questions.

An issue or two back, one of your readers seemed to have a thunderous hard-on for the AK-47. This, of course, brings all kinds of uncomfortable images to mind (I wonder- does Charleton Heston have a pin-up calendar?) Regardless, the AK is a terrible weapon. Sure, you could beat a herd of cows to death with the thing, throw it in the mud,

drop it in saltwater, and set it on fire and it’ll keep firing...but does it fire accurately? Far from it. Unlike the M-16, the AK is a crudely machined bit of equipment, and when it fires the recoil causes the entire assembly to clatter like a loose set of keys, throwing your accuracy way off after the first shot. The rifle can also be fired on full auto, leading too many users to give in to temptation and uselessly “rock and roll.” I’m not at all into guns, but I’ve had the chance to fire an AK, and I know enough about the weapons’ history to know that the rifle would be a poor choice for the zombie survivalist. Martinez has the right idea, when he tells Rick he’s helping him escape. A single shot, scoped rifle would be the most logical choice.

I’m totally canceling that AK-47 I’ve had on layaway. Thanks for the advice.

I don’t know if you’ve addressed this before, but when exactly does this story take place? The only reason I ask is that if the plague began after the invasion of Iraq, it’d go a long way to explaining why you don’t see more military hardware or zombies in uniform.

I imagine issue 1 took place around October of 2003 and we’re roughly 7 or 8 months after that by now, creeping into summer of 2004.

When you get the chance, you should check out “Word War Z.” Great book, kind of a “Longest Day” version of a zombie plague.

It’s on my to-read list.

Sorry `bout the last letter, didn’t think you’d throw up. But you know, zombie feces and all....it kind of makes sense.

Oh, one last thing. Rick needs a hook. A big, shiny, fuck off chrome job that’d make Peter Pan soil himself. And an eye patch. I guess a parrot might be too much to hope for.

Looking forward to more carnage,
C.S.

P.S. Tell Charlie, Cliff and Rus they’re doing fine work.

Charlie, Cliff and Rus--I just wanted to say, you’re doing fine work!

Dear Robert Kirkman,

I’m writing this mail in order to want you to know that you have lots of fans in Turkey :)

That’s cool to know. I’m a HUGE fan of turkey (note lack of capitalization).

In Turkey we do not have local comic book shops everywhere like you guys have so it’s really difficult to track down the new comics. That’s why I happened to know your awesome masterpiece late enough to miss few first issues (to be honest, I missed nearly 20 issues). But in Turkey we have proverbs saying that *It’s never too late to mend and A fault confessed is half redressed*. So I began to track the Walking Dead from 19th issue. From there on I add a copy of “Walking Dead” to my shopping cart every month. At this point I must thank the DCP team for helping me to cover the missed issues.

Wow--I’m sorry it’s such a chore to get books over there. Don’t sweat coming onto the book late. What matters most is that you’re here now.

From my childhood to my adulthood I have a keen interest in walking dead stuff. I have watched the Romero’ s quadrilogy more than a couple of times (do not know the number exactly). Like Master Romero, in the Walking Dead you have created the atmosphere so good that when reading there were sometimes that I have totally collapsed. More over the “human psychology in the shitty conditions” that you reflect make me to think once more about the survival ethics. What I am trying to say in short is you are genius :) Thank you so much! Not only you but all the team!

That’s all from Turkey now.

Lot’s of respects,

Can Kartoglu

P.S: I have enjoyed reading “Marvel Zombies”, that was F-U-N!

Glad you liked it.

Dearest Dr. Kirkman,

I’ve awarded you with a doctorate in undead studies, uh, yeah, i can do that. I’d knight you if I could...thought that i’d first write this letter the same as everyone else, and of course that includes a list, but mines different, i guess; 1. First-time writer! wow! i never thought i’d write to a comic book, yet here i am! 2. props to my LCS, Cheryl’s Comics and Toys in Charleston, WV. 3. I’ve been reading since X issue and now i’ve got `em all, it’s like crack! 4 .The Walking Dead is the best book out there and everything you touch turns to gold and all the artwork is amazing in it’s harsh starkness....then the complaints come, scheduling,

when's she having the damn baby?, people look too much alike, and the like, you've read it at LEAST as many times as i have.

I've always read the letters and have been entertained, yr answers seem to give an insight into yr genial personality, and it is nice after all the horror show of the last pages, and it gave me another reason to keep reading when i otherwise would've already had it bagged and boarded. I'd always considered writing letter hacks and writing the shortest letter ever. "no more letters, just more story", i would've never done it, because you see, I've never written to a comic book, i'm one of those people that you've turned into comic readers...but, uh....the reason i'm writing is i had a problem: #30. after waiting forever for glenn to return to the prison, as the ad with the cover in #29 shows, i know i know, no one ever said it was glenn...but c'mon, a wounded little asian kid, vs. fighting linebacker...that ain't tyrese. i like being fooled though so that's cool. My problem? Where's my Rathburn back cover? Kill whoever you want (i like Glenn though), but the backcovers are just the greatest...especially #25. And I know you (and Image) have an opportunity to showcase new and upcoming comics, and i see the connection...but whatabout the million letters that I love to complain about?

Drive fast and take chances,

Jimmy Hunt

The back covers took a month off to make room for the Criminal preview. I thought it was worth it... but I have a deep festering hatred for all things Cliff Rathburn. That man is far more evil than any of you will ever know.

Dear Kirk-THE-Man,

I just read your interview with CBR News where you mention zombie stories are meant to show the changes that would happen to society over time. I couldn't agree more, and I love that you realize the story potential that you are doing with TWD.

With the unnecessary praise done, let's get down to business. In TWD #29, the Governor gives his daughter a hand to eat, presumably Rick's. In the first panel it's clearly a left hand, but it was Rick's right hand that was cut off. In the next panel, it magically becomes a right hand. Even though it's implied that the hand is Rick's, I suppose you could say the first hand was from a person in the helicopter crash, given to the daughter first off panel, and the second hand shown is Rick's. I doubt I'm the first to notice this, but what do you say, do I get a no-prize? Or how about a decayed-prize, expired-prize, etc.

Until I see a Battle Pope, Capes, Invincible, Science Dog, TWD crossover (actually I'd love to see that),
-efcufochr

Your no prize is in the mail.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

I always figured US creators and other related lifeforms would be glad and surprised to hear their work is read and appreciated so far away from home... and I all I ever get from you is a "so you're European, big deal". Bendis actually corrected my list of his Spanish-published work once, when I wrote to congratulate him about it. He CORRECTED it.

Can a bald American be any more arrogant than that? I guess he doesn't realize I could kill him and still get a year of pre-scripted Bendis books, which means he's not completely safe from my wrath.

So no list for you, Mr. Kirkman.

So you're European? Big deal!

I will, however, tell you a little story about my friends and co-workers. I've been following your work on its original American format since TWD's first issue. When it started getting published in Spain (5 issues at a time, almost one book every six months -- can't you fix that somehow?) and I saw the first issue while hanging out in a local comic store with other people I suffered something that vaguely resembled an asthma attack, which surprisingly got several of my friends to buy the book. Well, that and the gorgeous black and white art.

Flash forward a year or two (your book really comes out too slowly here, Mr. Kirkman), when a friend of mine went to London with his girlfriend. There, he saw an unpublished book of TWD and carelessly took a peek inside. This had two effects:

1) My friend saw Rick with his hand cut off. A sizable force of security guards and worried girlfriends had to prevent him from gouging his eyeballs out with a Wolverine action figure.

It's easier with a Spider-Man figure.

2) I finally had somebody to talk to about the last story arc of the book. I was dying here. I knew all these important things about rape and mutilation while everybody else was still talking about how cool Rick's speech at the end of the last book was. I feel much better now, thanks.

So there you go. Greetings from Spain. By the way, this eyeless friend

of mine also loved Marvel Zombies. I didn't read it when he did. Now that I've had to survive months of him randomly bringing it up in the middle of unrelated conversations I think I never will. Nothing personal, of course.

Keep it up. Faster.
Néstor Forján

We're trying to do the books faster here in the states. As far as foreign reprints go, I don't have much control over that stuff. It's pretty much up to the foreign publishers when the books ship.

Mr Kirkman,

Big fan of Walking Dead. A friend gave me the tpb of the first 6 issues and I've been hooked since. Big Romero fan (once slept in a car in a rest stop in Kenosha Wisconsin to meet him) and big zombie fan. Knew I liked your stuff after reading the book and Marvel Zombies. But when I read in the letter column that you hated bendis, I knew you are special. :) What do you think of Civil War?

I don't hate Bendis, in fact, I love him. I just like to give him shit in the letters columns of my books because I know that bald troll will more than likely never read them.

Just to jump off on a tangent, I think Brian had a pretty big hand in getting me work at Marvel which was a big kick start to my career at a time with The Walking Dead and Invincible were just starting to take off. Brian is a great guy and he's helped me out a lot over the years.

That doesn't change that fact that he's so silly looking.

While reading issue #30, I was thinking about something. When the group was on the tower taking out zombies it made me think of a thought I had one time in regards to the original Dawn of the Dead. Just as a mental exercise I was trying to "correct" any mistakes the group made. One of the ideas I had was to go out and kill some of the surrounding zombies just to thin the crowd and to give a warning to anyone coming by. Some zombie heads on lances might discourage others wanting to take away the mall. I was going to email you this idea, but in the letter column you mention the idea that none of the group had ever seen a zombie movie. Guess it just goes to show great minds think alike. :)

Enjoying the series, can't wait to see what happens when Rick and Michonne get out of town and back to the prison. If I may make one suggestion, I really liked the "cast so far" head shots & short descriptions you had at the end of the book. I realize it got very very long and unwieldy, but you don't have to include everyone. As much as I liked little Duane Jones (since I was a late comer, did anyone get that in joke/homage?), you don't need to include everyone. Maybe just the crew and "special guest stars" (as they used to say on TV shows). Interesting use of the prison as a setting, never would have thought of it but it makes sense.

The character list will be back shortly. If not next issue... then soon. I just need to take the time to update it.

Well, in closing, keep up the good work and keep the zombies up also. One last question, since you have an "ensemble" cast, do you like any of the ensemble dramas on television like Lost or Battlestar Galactica?

Best,
Butch Rosenbalm

I'm a huge fan of LOST. I know I'm going to LOVE Battlestar Galactica when I finally get around to buying the DVDs but I haven't had a chance to pick them up yet.

Dear Mr. Kirkman,

Awesome job. You are an inspiration. I'm a writer myself but not for comics. Anyways, one thing that really bugs me is, are you planning on including Morgan and Duane Jones in any future issues? Like I always imagined Rick and his group meeting up with the Jones' and them having their own group. Maybe for a battle against a huge zombie army? I don't know, I'm just talking out of my ass. But seriously, I would love to see the Jones' come back and I'm sure I'm not alone in this.

Awesomely sincere,
Will C.

I want them back in the book more than anyone, trust me. I always intended to bring them back. It's just taking me a while to figure out a believable way to get them back into the book. It'll happen, though.

Damn you, Kirkman.

I've been an avid comic book fan my entire life. Most of my childhood was spent with my nose in an Avengers book, or something involving the X-Men. As I grew into my teens and beyond, I kept up with my

favorite mags. Eventually it got to the point where I just waited for the trade paperbacks to come out, so I could get great lumps of the story all at once.

That’s how it’s been for me- wait till the trade comes out. I remember my brother exclaiming how somebody named Onslaught was going to kill everyone but the X-Men. I was tempted to pick up individual issues, but I held off. When Grant Morrison came to write the X-Men I was excited, but did I pick up individual issues? Nope. I waited, and lo and behold, the trades came out on a regular basis and I kept up with the story. When Infinite Crisis, and Identity Crisis before it, blasted onto the shelves I remained in control and isolated myself from my favorite websites, lest I discover something that would ruin the story when I read it in its entirety. Currently, even as intrigued as I am about Marvel’s current Civil War storyline, I’m waiting. I’d rather read it in a collected volume.

So I say again, damn you, Kirkman.

My brother let me know about The Walking Dead a couple of years back. He recommended it highly. As he’s as much a connoisseur of zombie fiction as I am (my brother and I were both traumatized by a young viewing of “Dawn of the Dead”, and to this day do not go into malls without scoping out defensive positions first), I knew I had to check this book out. Luckily the first trade had already been published, so I picked it up-and was absolutely enthralled. Clearly this was a book written for zombie fans by a zombie fan. It had everything I wanted- gruesome hordes of the undead, great artwork and characters that were so well-written I caught myself actually feeling wretched when one or the other got bitten. I still mist up when I re-read the first trade and see Jim’s long, slow decline into zombiehood. That’s good stuff, man.

And yet I still held out, stubborn cuss that I am, from buying the individual issues. I eagerly snatched up the trades when they came out, and at least the first three ended story arcs so I didn’t have to wait to see how a cliffhanger resolved itself.

Everything was going so well until you threw that damned helicopter into the mix. My brother bought me the latest trade for my birthday, and I immediately excluded myself from the rest of my family to tear through it. A helicopter? Cool. It stands to reason that others are out there with aircraft. Rick’s group couldn’t be the only ones left. Going out to check the crash with riot gear? Makes perfect sense- I’ve been reading about the group’s adventures in the prison for a year now, so why didn’t it ever occur to me that they should have riot gear laying around someplace?

Then they got to Woodbury. And they met the Governor. And Rick’s hand was chopped off, and Michonne was raped and brutalized. And I realized the bloody trade paperback had less than 20 pages left. And then I realized something else: there was no way I would be able to leave these characters in limbo until the next trade came out.

So I say one last time: damn you, Kirkman.

I just bought issue #31, and half-read the thing in the car on the way home while I was driving because I couldn’t wait to see what happens next. Marvel was unable to suck me back in to buying issues month by month. DC couldn’t do it either. But your story about Rick and his people trying to survive a zombie apocalypse did it. Now I’m going to be one of those people awaiting your book each and every month, gathering in front of the local comic book shop the day it’s realized, ready to devour your story as soon as I can sink my teeth into it... hey, that sounds kind of familiar, huh?

You write one mean story, Mr. Kirkman, and you’ve hooked me. I can’t wait to see what happens next.

Thanks for that.
Rob Casaletta

Cool. The more people I can pull from the TPBs to get on the singles the better. You don’t want to miss out on these wildly entertaining letters columns, right?

The Walking Dead changed my life!

Okay, maybe that was a little dramatic but I can say that I have no idea how I didn’t read this book before now. I loved Marvel Zombies and I am really digging your work on Ultimate X-Men (the Shi’ar as a Scientology-like religion is brilliant) but until last week I had never picked up a copy of Walking Dead or Invincible. A friend of mine had been telling me that I really should be reading your other books. So I got my hands on collections of Walking Dead and Invincible and I am loving them so freaking much. I read through Walking Dead in a few days - I just could not put it down - and now I am on the second trade of Invincible and I think I have a new favorite super-hero book.

Thanks for coming around--but you only read my Marvel stuff for a while? FOR SHAME!

But back to my homeboy Rick and the rest of the walking dead - I am so in love with this book and these characters (even though you keep killing them). This has to be the most ingenious use of zombies in recent memory (Shaun of the Dead coming in second). Your focus on the emotional impact on the survivors gives the book such depth and soul. I can’t say enough about it. And so far Invincible is the best super-hero book I have read in a long time. Your writing has really

inspired me to get off my butt and pick up a pen. A friend of mine and I have an idea for a story for some time and reading your work has really inspired me to move forward with this.

I guess my only questions for now are:
1. Do you have a planned ending for Walking Dead? How long to you plan the series to run?

I would like the series to go on as long as humanly possible. I’d be happy to do 300 issues. No planned ending in mind. I’ll wrap it up when it’s time... until then, I’ll play it by ear.

2. Any chance Rick is going to pull an Ash and fix a chainsaw to his newly made stub? Perhaps a boomstick?

No chance.

3. Would you suggest self-publishing or trying to get published as a new writer?

-- Chris Gray

Yes, but it’s very difficult. You need to be sure that it’s something you want to do.

My greatest praises to you, Lord Kirkman,

TWD is by far the greatest comic book i have ever read. Infact, it was the first one i started reading religiously, and now is the only one i can afford on my meager paycheck. I got a girlfriend, so now I have to cut back on my comic book budget, but TWD will always be bought, every month. I’ve been pimping TWD to all my freinds. Enough praises for you. Now for Questions.

1) What about those two dudes back in Rick’s Home town, are they alive, will we even know? Will they show back up!

See previous letter.

2) Tyreese said he wouldn’t give up looking for Rick till he “See his body,” too bad that dead body would try to eat him... Just thought that was funny.

Good point.

3) What’s up with the Governors family! Why are they Zombies!? The doctor said something about it, but it just raised more questions than it answered!

All will be revealed in time.

4) Rick only has one hand, any chance he’ll pull an Ash Williams and replace it with a chainsaw? I know your all thinking this, just no one had the balls to ask.

No chance.

5) Still about Rick’s hand, the hand that was severed, that was the hand he broke to hell on the guys face, right? That means he still has one good hand... right?! I looked though the whole book, making sure, over and over, but i’m still not content.

Yes, his bad hand was the one that was severed.

6) How old is Carl now? He’s acting more older than i thought he was, taking care of his mom and all... Is it just forced maturity, in an apocalyptic world, or is he like 13 now?

Only 7 months or so have passed since the first issue. Carl is just growing up due to the situation he’s in.

Well, that’s all i have time for. Goodbye Kirkman, and Kudos to Marvel Zombies.

-TheWordSayer

Thanks!

I just wanted to thank you for the free retailer hardcover. I for one am a big fan of the walking dead and sell the fuck out of it to anybody that listens to my recommendations. even though I own the trades I will be keeping the hardcover for myself (unless this thing goes for big money on eBay, like new car money!) Thank you again keep up the good work and I will keep selling it.in other words no more 4 month gaps that kind of stuff hurts us all.

Mike Shianabargar
Ast.Manger of
Amazing Fantasy
Tinley Park IL

Cut me some slack, Mike... there has NEVER been a four month gap. I may be wrong but as I recall there was never more than a two month gap between any issue. I hope you enjoy the hardcover, though. I appreciate all that you and other retailers have done to support this book.

Mr. Kirkman:

I'm a very big fan of the Walking Dead series. I really do enjoy what you are doing with it. I read the first three trades & then I decided to go monthly. I simply did that because I just couldn't wait for the next trade six months down the line. But, I'm afraid to say that Walking Dead #31 will be my last monthly issue. It's not that I don't like the series. I really do. But, the duration of the delays between the monthly issues is getting out of hand. I find it hard to sit down and enjoy the story. Getting 22 pages once every 6 to sometimes 8 weeks just kills the enjoyment of the story. I will though continue to purchase the trades. It was the trades that made me a fan. It was the monthly issues that cooled my interest. I will miss those great letter pages. But, what can I do?

Please do keep up the great work. After all, I will be following the trade paperback editions.

AA

The delays have not been the most ideal of situations, true, but hopefully in the coming months that will really, and truly be behind us. I got hit with a number of things this year that slowed me down, one of which was the birth of my first child. The Marvel books continued to ship on time because I only have to turn in a script for them. I do far more behind the scenes stuff on my Image books and that's where the delays came in. I'm getting a better handle on it now. The schedule should be rock-solid throughout 2007... we'll see.

Greetings from the Great White North,

In my younger days I was what you might call a comiholic. My parents took me out every Saturday to the local variety store to by my weekly fix of Spiderman, Batman, Swamp Thing, Creepy, Superman, and so on.

Good parents.

But time marches on and I gave up my collection and moved on to novels and movies, leaving behind the illustrated worlds of my youth.

I married and had kids, and unlike me they never had the opportunity to read the comics that brought me so much joy.

Then one day on Ebay I noticed a Trade Paperback that caught my eye. It was the first collection of The Walking Dead, and from that time I've been hooked. I bought the next collection and then one title became two, two became three and... well you can guess the rest. I now subscribe to tons of titles and have made my online subscription service very happy. Even my kids are hooked now, and I have to defend my stash against the little stinkers, otherwise I'm searching for missing issues.

But by far my favorite comic is still The Walking Dead.

I find it as stimulating as any novel I've read, and as addicting as any TV show or movie series I've come across. Without the characters and story lines you've developed, I and my family would never have experienced what I feel is the rebirth of the comic industry.

Bravo people!!!

It's always nice to hear about this book getting people back into comics. That's probably the most rewarding kind of praise this book could get. Comics are a fantastic form of entertainment (my favorite) and it pains me that so many people have lost their way and given it up.

And I just finished reading issue #31.

WTF do you mean... a new chapter?!

Don't you dare kill off Rick!!
I just about crapped myself when you cut off his hand !!

Always a fan,
Frank Sperberg.

Wait a minute--DON'T kill Rick? You don't want me to kill him? Crap.

Dear Robert Kirkman,

In the hardcover of TWD you mention that "Night of the Living Dead" somehow fell into the public domain. I just saw a TV interview with the director, George Romero, and he answered that question. He was originally going to call the movie "Night of the Flesh Eaters." When he changed the title, the distributor changed the original title to NOTLD, but forgot to put the copyright notice on the film prints. At that time copyright law required it. Thus, lacking the notice, Romero eventually lost the copyright. The more you know.

Quick question so this isn't just a history lesson:

1. Will you ever deliberately release something of TWD into the public domain?

-Anthony Benitez

Why would I release any part of The Walking Dead into public domain? It'll be there in a hundred years or so anyway... but seriously, the zombies are in public domain (and plenty of people are making money on those) so there's really nothing else to give. Odd question. Thanks for the info on NOTLD though, I didn't know about all that.

I should probably take the time to update this shilling section below... but it's late and I'm tired. I'll do it next month!

ITEM! If you like this book and you've read a superhero comic before you should be reading INVINCIBLE. I write the book and it's drawn and colored by Ryan Ottley and Bill Crabtree. It's a swell book.

ITEM! Clayburn Moore, sculptor of the INVINCIBLE statue (in stores now) just sent me new photos of the Rick Grimes sculpture. It's looking DAMN AMAZING and I think you guys will ALL be happy with this one. I'll share photos here as soon as I can. It's GREAT! Should be available around summer time unless I'm mistaken.

ITEM! THE IRREDEEMABLE ANT-MAN just launched and the reviews are good. People seem to be liking this book and I certainly like it. Phil Hester, Ande Parks and Bill Crabtree are all killing in the penciling, inking and coloring departments. Issue 2 should be in stores by the time this issue ships so be on the lookout!

ITEM! My ULTIMATE X-MEN run is just heating up. We're smack dab in the middle of the senses shattering CABLE four-part arc and I'm telling you--this ones going to be huge. Miss it at your own risk!

ITEM! Buy BATTLE POPE--come on--you know you want it. Issue 11 just shipped... it's a Christmas story. You like Christmas don't you? You more than likely like JESUS too right? This book is for YOU! (yeah, you!)

ITEM! I think I'm done but I really like typing "ITEM!"

ITEM! Yeah... I'm done.

See you back here next month!

-Robert Kirkman



INVINCIBLE

**VS. THE RE-ANIMEN
THE FINAL BATTLE!**



**ISSUE 37
COMING SOON**



MORE GREAT BOOKS FROM ROBERT KIRKMAN & IMAGE COMICS!

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 1: DAYS GONE BYE
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-672-8 • \$9.99

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 2: MILES BEHIND US
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-413-4 • \$12.95

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 3: SAFETY BEHIND BARS
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-487-5 • \$12.95

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 4: THE HEART'S DESIRE
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-530-8 • \$12.99

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 5: THE BEST DEFENSE
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-612-1 • \$12.99

THE WALKING DEAD, VOL. 6: A DIFFERENT WORLD
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-573-4 • \$14.99

THE WALKING DEAD BOOK ONE HC
Collecting issues 1-12 in one over-sized hardcover!
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-619-0 • \$29.99

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 1: FAMILY MATTERS
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-711-1 • \$12.99

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 2: EIGHT IS ENOUGH
ISBN-13: 1-58240-347-2 • \$12.95

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 3: PERFECT STRANGERS
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-915-5 • \$12.95

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 4: HEAD OF THE CLASS
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-440-2 • \$14.95

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 5: THE FACTS OF LIFE
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-564-4 • \$14.99

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 6: A DIFFERENT WORLD
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-573-4 • \$14.99

INVINCIBLE, VOL. 7: THREE'S COMPANY
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-636-5 • \$14.99

INVINCIBLE ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 1 HC
Collecting issues 1-131 • ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-500-1 • \$34.95

INVINCIBLE ULTIMATE COLLECTION, VOL. 2 HC
Collecting issues 14-24 plus #91 and the Image Comics Summer Special #1 story!
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-594-0 • \$34.99

BATTLE POPE, VOL. 1: GENESIS
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-572-8 • \$12.95

BATTLE POPE, VOL. 2: MAYHEM
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-529-2 • \$12.99

TECH JACKET, VOL. 1: LOST & FOUND TP
ISBN-13: 978-1-58240-314-4 • \$12.95

REAPER GN
\$6.95

TO FIND YOUR NEAREST COMIC BOOK STORE, CALL:
1-888-COMIC-BOOK

THE WALKING DEAD is a TM and © 2006 Robert Kirkman. INVINCIBLE is a TM and © 2006 Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker. Battle Pope is a TM and © 2006 Robert Kirkman and L.J. So. REAPER is a TM and © 2006 Cliff Rathbone. Image Comics® and its logos are registered trademarks of Image Comics, Inc. All rights reserved.

The Word

image



THE NIGHTLY NEWS #1 (of 6)
This is the one everyone's going to be talking about! Newcomer writer/artist JONATHAN HICKMAN makes his splash debut with this politically and socially aware series.

As an act of violence spirals out of control to encompass the entirety of the news media, a cult has emerged from the errors and retractions that have ruined careers, marriages and even lives. Under direction from his cult master, The Hand leads an army of followers committed to revolution, willing to die for their cause.



JONATHAN HICKMAN



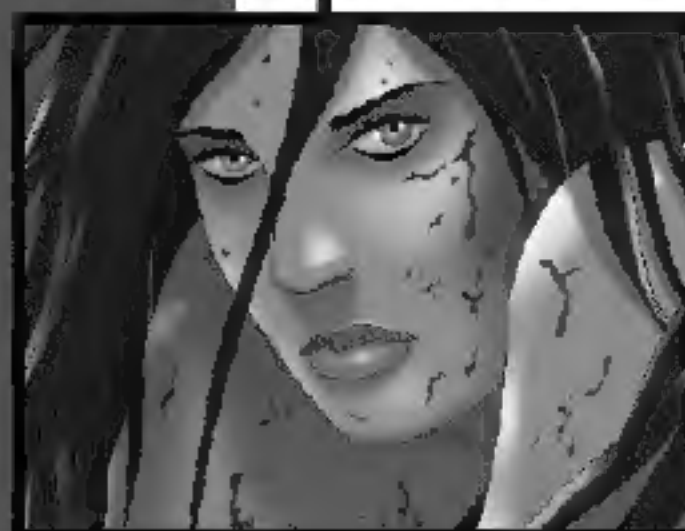
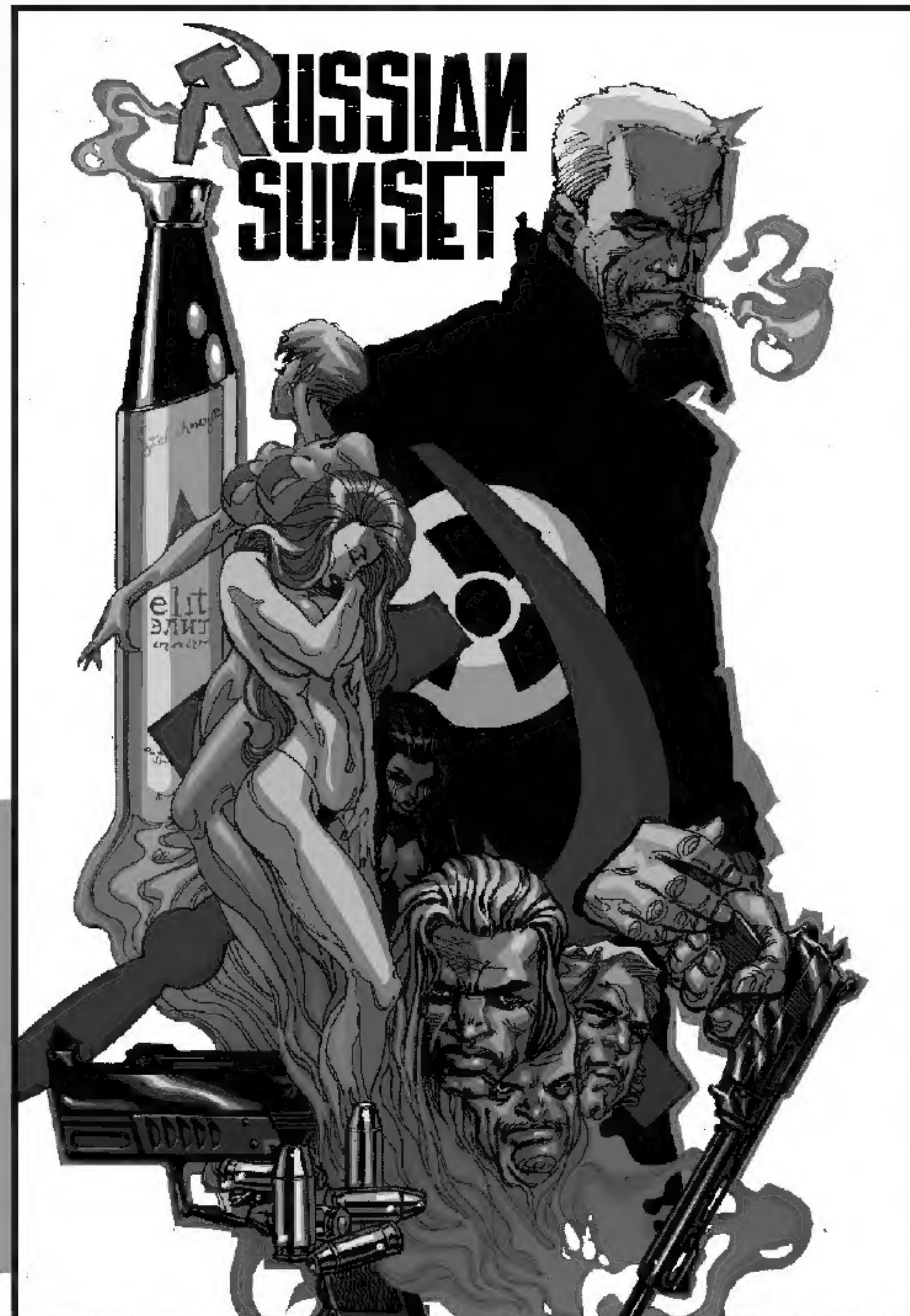
JH 108

DRAIN #1 Writer C.B. Cebulski teams up with Japanese artist SANA TAKEDA to bring you this centuries-spanning vampire epic.

Her clan destroyed, her family murdered by vampires, Chinatsu, a once-proud female ninja, had nothing left to live for... save revenge. Now a vampire herself, Chinatsu tracks the dark lord that turned her all those long years ago. Immortality has only made her need for vengeance stronger as she follows him across the globe, through myriad time periods, battling the undead minions that rise up to stop her.

RUSSIAN SUNSET #1 (of 5) Crime story and espionage thriller meet head on in this hot new mini-series by writer RON MARZ and artist MIRKO COLAK! Nik is a soldier for the Russian mob in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn - a strong arm when there's dirty work to be done. His latest assignment sends him back to mother Russia, where he'll be drawn into a web that includes brutal gangsters, seductive spies, fanatical terrorists and a stolen nuclear warhead. But even surrounded by such intrigue, it's Nik himself who harbors the most shocking secret of all!

CYBERFORCE/X-MEN ONE SHOT
Cyberforce members Ripclaw and Cyblade come face to face with a threat that even their enhanced abilities can't handle: the Sentinels! Their only hope for survival turns out to be the very targets the Sentinels were searching for -- Wolverine and Psylocke of the X-Men! Writer RON MARZ and artist PAT LEE, the team who relaunched and reinvigorated Cyberforce, get together for an unforgettable clash of heroes against rampaging robots!



WWW

READ POWERS ONLINE! Read POWERS every day at www.newsarama.com/powers
BOOM! Find everything from news to reviews to tattoos at TODD McFARLANE's all-new cultureboom.com

NOVEMBER HITLIST

A DISTANT SOIL #38	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATTLE POPE #13	<input type="checkbox"/>
BOMB QUEEN II: QUEEN OF HEARTS #2 (of 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
CASANOVA #6	<input type="checkbox"/>
CYBERFORCE / X-MEN (one-shot)	<input type="checkbox"/>
THE CROSS BRONX #3 (of 4)	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEATH, JR. SERIES 2 #2 (of 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRAIN #1	<input type="checkbox"/>
ELEPHANTMEN #0	<input type="checkbox"/>
EMISSARY #6	<input type="checkbox"/>
FRESHMEN, VOL. 2 #1 (of 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
GIRLS #19	<input type="checkbox"/>
GODLAND #14	<input type="checkbox"/>
HUNTER-KILLER #8	<input type="checkbox"/>
IMPALER #2	<input type="checkbox"/>
INVINCIBLE #38	<input type="checkbox"/>
JACK STAFF #12	<input type="checkbox"/>
NEGATIVE BURN #7	<input type="checkbox"/>
THE NIGHTLY NEWS #1 (of 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE INVINCIBLE UNIVERSE #1 (of 2)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PAUL JENKINS' SIDEKICK #5 (of 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
PHONOGRAM #4 (of 6)	<input type="checkbox"/>
THE PIRATES OF CONEY ISLAND #2 (of 8)	<input type="checkbox"/>
RUSSIAN SUNSET #1 (of 5)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAM NOIR: SAMURAI DETECTIVE #3 (of 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAVAGE DRAGON #131	<input type="checkbox"/>
SPAWN #162	<input type="checkbox"/>
STRANGE GIRL #13	<input type="checkbox"/>
TRUE STORY, SWEAR TO GOD #2	<input type="checkbox"/>
THE WALKING DEAD #34	<input type="checkbox"/>

GRAND LARSENENY

Okay--so we've been around a few years.

One of the things that comes along with that is that readers have come to depend on us--to trust that we'll be here month after month and year after year. Another is that we've gotten something of a reputation and that's both good and bad.

It's good when they expect that we'll provide solid entertainment for their funnybook dollar. It's bad when they dwell on the mistakes of the past and anticipate that they'll apply to the future as well.

What's been especially gratifying has been the veritable legion of fans that grew up with Image comics and who would love nothing more then to join our merry cast of creators.

I remember a few years back meeting an enthusiastic Robert Kirkman who was an Image fan to beat the band. Robert started up his own company called Funk-o-tron when he was a youth and he published his own book called Battle Pope (now being collected in full color here at Image) and he was a fan of Savage Dragon and many of our other titles. Robert asked if he could have Dragon show up in one of his books and I was only too happy to lend him my character for a guest shot. Having Robert come over to Image was a dream come true for him and a breath of fresh air for us. His books, Invincible, the Walking Dead, Battle Pope and all the rest are big favorites around the office and across the country.

Other creators have expressed a similar sentiment, going on at length about wanting to be part of the Image experience.

And then there's the mail...!

We get tens of thousands of submissions from eager young creators wanting to join the Image team! Readers have gotten the message--Image is a great home for their books! Since Image takes no rights and lets creators create, folks naturally feel as though we're the best deal in town (and, truth be told, we are). We get unsolicited submissions by the truckload and the submissions thread on our message board is one of the most frequented destinations on our website.

One of the questions I'm asked most is, "What kind of comic book is Image looking for?"

The answer may surprise you.

You see--the book we most want to publish is the very one the creators most want to work on--period.

We're not looking to fill a certain niche--what we want is the book that any given creator most wants to do. If a creator has a passion for airplanes and can write a compelling story about airplanes then we want that. If a creator wants to write a book about cyborg cavemen, then we

want to see that. If they want to tackle politics or prostitution (not that there's a heck of a lot of difference between the two) we're up for that. We want creators that are passionate about a subject sharing that passion with readers everywhere.

We want to publish their dream books.

We're publishing mine.

I love Savage Dragon. I want nothing more than to write, pencil and ink Savage Dragon until I'm old and feeble and incapable of doing anything other than drool and soil myself.

And that's what we want from the creators that come onboard to contribute their chronicles--their passion! We're not looking for guys to do more superheroes just because Image started off doing a line of top selling superhero books. And we're not looking for more zombie books just 'cause the Walking Dead is burning up the charts. We're not on the prowl for monster books or vampire books of comedies or romances of funny animals or smut--not unless creators have a passion for monster books or vampire books of comedies or romances of funny animals or smut.

We want to give you what they want to give you!

Now, granted, not everybody that submits a book to Image is ready for the big time. Many creators who've made it big here today tried to get in unsuccessfully a number of times and there are folks that may never make the grade but that's to be expected--not everybody gets to take the prom queen to the prom.

But nothing pleases me more than having a new creator climb onboard and say, "THIS is MY dream book--THIS is the one I want to do more than anything else."

Most creators want to create--they don't want to be one in a long succession of guys to do their version of somebody else's character--they want to innovate and blaze their own path--to tell their own story--not one handed down from previous creators.

And that's what Image is all about.

Image Comics is a company created by creators for creators and all we ask for is for creators to share their passion and dare to do their very best.

Read one of our books and see for yourself.



Did you know TODD McFARLANE'S first comics work appeared in an issue of COYOTE? If not, be on the lookout for COYOTE, VOL. 4 --reprinting SCORPIO ROSE by STEVE ENGLEHART and TODD McFARLANE for the first time ever! It's in stores this month!



EMPIRE